

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, February 14, 2008.

Met according to adjournment, at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Ms. Balser of Newton in the Chair (having been appointed by the Speaker, under authority conferred by Rule 5, to perform the duties of the Chair).

Prayer was offered by the Reverend Robert F. Quinn, C.S.P., Chaplain of the House, as follows:

Prayer.

Gracious God, Our Source of Hope and Trust, we take this moment of prayer and reflection to thank You for our numerous material and spiritual blessings. We believe that we can depend upon You at all times and in all circumstances for You are always with us. On Monday, we will celebrate Presidents Day, a nation holiday. On Monday, the people of this country will recall and give thanks for the service and the dedication of our former presidents to our Constitution and the common good. On the holiday we, as a people, renew our commitment to our fundamental constitutional principles and the lofty goals of our founders. May our hearts and minds be filled with peace, confidence, enthusiasm and creativity as we together try to resolve, in a reasoned manner, the many challenges of these changing times in a changing world.

Grant Your blessings to the Speaker, the members and employees of the House and their families. Amen.

Pledge of  
allegiance.

At the request of the Chair (Ms. Balser), the members, guests and employees joined with her in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions (filed with the Clerk) were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules:

International  
education.

Resolutions (filed by Mrs. Harkins of Needham and other members of the House) urging support for international education and foreign exchange student programs;

Highland  
Glee Club.

Resolutions (filed by Representatives Balser of Newton, Koutoujian of Waltham and Khan of Newton) recognizing the one hundredth anniversary of the Highland Glee Club; and

American  
Heart  
Month.

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Walz of Boston) commending the American Heart Association's observance of February 2008 as American Heart Month;

Mr. Scaccia of Boston, for the committee on Rules, reported, in each instance, that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, in each instance, on motion of Mr. Peterson of Grafton, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Murphy of Lowell, for the committee on Higher Education, on House, No. 4280, a Bill providing for the public higher education capital improvement needs of the Commonwealth (House, No. 4538) [Bond Issue: \$2,000,000,000.00]. Read; and referred, under Joint Rule 1F, to the committee on Bonding and Capital Expenditures and State Assets.

Higher  
education  
capital  
improvement.

By Mrs. Haddad of Somerset, for the committee on Education, on House, Nos. 384, 444 and 551, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Education to make an investigation and study of certain House documents concerning school curriculum (House, No. 4535).

School  
curriculum,  
study.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 139, 386, 396, 400, 431, 445, 456, 481, 513, 514, 516, 544, 550, 565, 566, 568, 580 and 3735, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Education to make an investigation and study of certain House documents concerning MCAS testing (House, No. 4536).

MCAS  
testing,  
study.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 388, 427, 455, 462, 474, 475, 480, 490 and 506, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Education to make an investigation and study of certain House documents concerning student issues and student safety (House, No. 4537).

Student  
safety,  
study.

Severally referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Subsequently Mr. Scaccia of Boston, for said committees, reported, in each instance, asking to be discharged from further consideration of said orders; and recommending that the same severally be referred to the House committee on Rules.

Under Rule 42, the reports severally were considered forthwith; and they were accepted.

Engrossed Bill.

The engrossed Bill authorizing the investment of trust funds for the city of Northampton (see Senate, No. 2400) (which originated in the Senate), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Bill  
enacted.

Orders of the Day.

The Senate Bill authorizing the Middlesex Retirement Board to grant a certain pension to James Charles Mickel (Senate, No. 2208), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time; and it was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

Third  
reading  
bill.

The engrossed Bill authorizing the conveyance of certain parcels of land in the city of Boston (see House, No. 4185), which had been returned His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor, Acting Governor, with recommendation of amendment (for message, see House, No. 4410), was considered.

Boston,  
land.

Boston,  
land.

The committee on Bills in Third Reading reported recommending that the amendment recommended by the Acting Governor be considered in the following form:

By striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in said message (as perfected by said committee).

The report was accepted; and the amendment was adopted. Sent to the Senate for its action.

*Order.*

On motion of Mr. DiMasi of Boston,—

Next  
sitting.

*Ordered,* That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Tuesday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

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At twenty-two minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Turner of Dennis (Ms. Balser of Newton being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet on Tuesday next at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.